


Remarks

Claims 2, 3, 18, 20, 21, 23-27 and 29-33 were cancelled and claims 1, 4, 9, 11, 19 and 22 were amended. The cancellation and amendment of claims is without prejudice to future prosecution. Please charge deposit account 13-2755 for fees due in connection with this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Changes to the Claims:

1. (Amended Once) A purified nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding for ~~[at least 5 contiguous amino acids of]~~ SEQ. ID. NO. 4, SEQ. ID. NO. 6 or SEQ. ID. NO. 8.

4. (Amended Once) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises ~~[at least about 18 contiguous nucleotides of]~~ SEQ. ID. NO. 7.

9. (Amended Once) An expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding for ~~[a polypeptide comprising at least 5 contiguous amino acids of]~~ SEQ. ID. NO. 4, SEQ. ID. NO. 6 or SEQ. ID. NO. 8.

11. (Amended Once) The expression vector of claim 10, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes for ~~[at least 9 contiguous amino acids of]~~ SEQ. ID. NO. 8.

19. (Amended Once) A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence ~~[encoding for at least about 9 contiguous amino acids]~~ of SEQ. ID. NO. 4, SEQ. ID. NO. 6 or SEQ. ID. NO. 8, wherein said polypeptide is substantially free of associated proteins.

22. (Amended Once) A method for screening for a compound able to bind a MCH receptor comprising the steps of:

(a) expressing a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NO. 4[;] or SEQ. ID. NO. 6[; or a fragment thereof, from recombinant nucleic acid, provided that said fragment comprises at least about 9 contiguous amino acids of SEQ. ID. NO. 8];

(b) providing to said polypeptide a test preparation comprising one or more test compounds; and

(c) measuring the ability of said test preparation to bind to said polypeptide.